

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) Method of applying inscriptions in relief to substrates made of plastic, comprising:

- a step in which a plastic material of variable viscosity is deposited in real time in a single operation, only at those places that form the relief inscription, at a sufficient temperature to ensure a physical-chemical bond with the material comprising the substrate,

- a cooling step for the material deposited.

2. (Original) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a magnetic card.

3. (Original) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a smart card.

4. (Original) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a badge.

5. (Currently Amended) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the method comprises a control step for a number ~~(30.1 to 30.n)~~ of vibrating elements in the form of tubes, supplied with fluidised plastic material from a reservoir ~~(33)~~, the vibration of these tubes being synchronised and controlled at frequencies to produce the deposition of drops of fluidised plastic material at the places necessary for a number of deposited drops to form an alphanumeric character or logo or increased thickness or any other form of raised area.

6. (Previously Presented) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the relief inscription may constitute a bar code.

7. (Previously Presented) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the relief inscription may constitute other codes carrying information concerning the substrate or the user of the substrate.

8. (Currently Amended) Inscription method as in claim 1, characterised by the fact that the control of the deposition of the drops is effected as a function of the speed at which the substrates pass by in front of the ends of the print heads ~~(30.1 to 30.n)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Inscription method characterised by the fact that it incorporates a means ~~(1)~~ of moving the substrate ~~(21)~~, made of plastic, in front of a print

station ~~(3)~~ equipped with a number of nozzles ~~(30.3 to 30.n)~~ which eject drops of plastic material of variable viscosity, the said drops forming relief points on the substrate, with the ejector nozzles being fitted with a means ~~(4)~~ of controlling the positioning of the drops in a direction transverse to that of the movement of the substrates, and also a means of controlling the ejection duration of each drop as a function of both the speed of travel of the substrates and the data constituting the inscription.

10. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 9, characterised by the fact that it includes a cooling station ~~(5)~~ for the fluidised plastic material.

11. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 9, characterised by the fact that the deposition station ~~(4)~~ includes a control unit ~~(4)~~ connected both to the means of controlling the transfer speed of the substrates ~~(20)~~ in front of the inscription station ~~(3)~~, and to each of the ejector nozzles ~~(30.1 to 30.n)~~ for fluidised plastic material.

12. (New) A method of applying inscriptions in relief to substrates made of plastic, comprising:

- a step in which a plastic material of variable viscosity is ejected in form of drops from nozzles of a print station in real time in a single operation, only at those places that form the relief inscription, at a sufficient temperature to ensure a physical-chemical bond with the material comprising the substrate, and in which the positioning of the drops in a

direction transverse to that of the movement of the substrates is controlled by a means of the ejector nozzles, and in which the ejection duration of each drop as a function of both the speed of travel of the substrates and the data constituting the inscription is controlled by another means of the ejector nozzles; and

- a cooling step for the material deposited.

13. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a magnetic card.

14. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a smart card.

15. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the substrate is a badge.

16. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the method comprises a control step for a number of vibrating elements in the form of tubes, supplied with fluidised plastic material from a reservoir, the vibration of these tubes being synchronised and controlled at frequencies to produce the deposition of drops of fluidised plastic material at the places necessary for a number of deposited drops to form an alphanumeric character or logo or increased thickness or any other form of raised area.

17. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the relief inscription may constitute a bar code.

18. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the relief inscription may constitute other codes carrying information concerning the substrate or the user of the substrate.

19. (New) Inscription method as in claim 12, characterised by the fact that the control of the deposition of the drops is effected as a function of the speed at which the substrates pass by in front of the ends of the print heads.

20. (New) The inscription method as in claim 12, characterised in that it incorporates a means of moving the substrate, made of plastic, in front of a print station equipped with a number of nozzles which eject drops of the plastic material of variable viscosity, at a sufficient temperature to ensure the physical-chemical bond with the material comprising the substrate, the said drops forming relief points on the substrate, with the ejector nozzles being fitted with a means of controlling the positioning of the drops in a direction transverse to that of the movement of the substrates, and also a means of controlling the ejection duration of each drop as a function of both the speed of travel of the substrates and the data constituting the inscription.

21. (New) The method as in claim 20 characterised by the fact that it includes a cooling station for the fluidised plastic material.

22. (New) The method as in claim 20 characterised in that the deposition station includes a control unit connected both to the means of controlling the transfer speed of the substrates in front of the inscription station, and to each of the ejector nozzles for fluidised plastic material.